



**U.S. EMBASSY JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**  
Office of Public Affairs

**For Immediate Release**

**November 7, 2013**

**Press Release**

**U.S. Ambassador and Western Equatoria State Governor Cut the Ribbon at New Yambio County Land Commission Office Building**



**Ambassador Susan D. Page in front of the newly opened Yambio County Land Commission office building, standing alongside Minister of Labor and Public Service Jacsilia Ebare Sartier, Acting Speaker of the State Assembly Lona Bona, and Governor Bangasi Joseph Bakasoro**

November 7, 2013 – Yambio, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. U.S. Ambassador Susan D. Page and Western Equatoria State Governor Bangasi Joseph Bakasoro officially dedicated the new Yambio County Land Commission office building today, at a ceremony attended by state and local officials, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/South Sudan Mission Director David McCloud and scores of local residents.

The new office building was constructed with support from the American people administered by USAID as part of a the three-year Sudan Rural Land Governance project.

The project is a partnership involving USAID, state and local land authorities, and implementing partner Tetra Tech ARD.

By building local land authority capacity, the project is strengthening land use planning and contributing to a land inventory in Yambio Payam (district). In addition to contributing to the adoption of a more equitable and transparent land policy, the project will help officials resolve often contentious land disputes which can sometimes lead to wider instability.

“The project is helping South Sudan to establish a comprehensive land policy that is equitable and transparent – and thus promotes the peaceful resolution of disagreements over land ownership and use,” Ambassador Page told the gathering at the Yambio County Offices ground. “Moreover, with a rational land policy in place, investor confidence will increase and trade, industry and agri-business will have a solid base on which to grow.”

The Sudan Rural Land Governance project will run until February 2014 and has a total value of \$9 million. It seeks to build the capacity of the National Land Commission, support state authorities in drafting implementing regulations for the Land Act (2009), and encourage broad-based participation in future investment decisions and conflict mitigation efforts.

###